

*Extracts from letters of Esther  
L. Shields, Korea.*

On board U. S. Cruiser Cincinnati,  
March 15, 1904.

A few of us are going to Chemulpo on this U. S. Cruiser. The captain has given his rooms to the ladies of the party, and tho' we had to sleep on the floor, sofas, or in berths as it happened we were very glad to be so safely and well settled, and are having a quick trip. The doctor of the ship has been the host for some of us, as the captain has some special guests. Everybody has been most kind. Only Mr. and Mrs. Kearns and baby, the Miller children and myself of our Mission came away from the North at this time.

On Monday morning we met a number of Japanese soldiers, both cavalry and infantry with all their equipments, who had been landed by transports at Ching nam po. Pyeng Yang people seem comfortable and safe at present. There seems to be no danger of a Korean uprising as the Japanese will prevent that. Most of the Russians that had come in from the North had gone back to the Yalu River, but we heard later of the return of some of them. The Sharrocks were well and glad to be at their post. Mr. Whitenmore also stayed, and they think, considering the food supplies, and present need of the Station, that will be sufficient force there at this time. The Ross family are staying with the Moffett's. Our mail is detained at present at Chemulpo, so don't be alarmed if you do not hear from us for some time. I stayed with Miss Snook and Miss Best two weeks in Pyeng Yang. Expect to be in my room in Seoul possibly this evening. It will be very pleasant and homelike, though I cannot tell you how sorry I was to leave Syen Chyun before the early summer. Dr. Allen, and everybody is trying to see that we do what is best; so I hope you will all be at peace about us whatever you hear, or however long you will have to wait for further letters.

Seoul, Korea, March 20th. I reached Seoul on Tuesday evening, 15th. I mailed you a letter on the boat, which I hope you will receive with reasonable promptness. It seems homelike to be back in Seoul again, —all so natural that I can hardly believe that I have been away a year and a half. There is a bustle even in Seoul city-life quite foreign to our existence in Syen Chyun. Miss Mary E. E. Brown, Dr. Eva H.

Field and I are now together in the Jacobson House and enjoy our family. Dr. Field and Miss Best are preparing to go home together in July. There is to be a Station meeting here tomorrow, and I expect to ask approval of some plan for my work in Seoul during these months that I should have been in Syen Chyun. I should like to arrange for a S. S. class, some meetings,—informal with the women who come to the Dispensary, and in visiting Korean homes. The Station may however, suggest other work for me. I hope to get down to real work in a few days. After all, I did not ask the station as to my work, but spoke to the individuals whom it most concerns, and have begun something for the Koreans, and have been helping in the Y. M. C. A. work a little.

Just now while the American and English Marines are here the building is open to them in the afternoons, and there have been and are to be socials once a week. Have already had two. A number of the boys came, and some, I am sure are glad to do so. The rooms had not yet been made ready for the Koreans, so that this is a fine opportunity to spend some effort for the Western boys.

The home letters have been most welcome, and I am hoping that you will get our letters finally, if not promptly, and will not be anxious about us. I suppose I had a clearer idea last night than ever I have had of what it means for the soldiers to guard and defend others with their lives, if necessary, by seeing the marines who came in to the social, and thinking that, for our sakes and others, before these times are over they might be wounded, dead or dying for our sakes; bright, boyish faces among them, boys who do think of their mothers; some faces less open and attractive, but all supposed to be ready to be used as targets if that should be necessary. God grant that they too, may be safe, and give their lives into His hands, and may we be able to help them on that way as they sojourn with us. While these men may be with us only a few months, it is much more probable they may stay many. A number of Pennsylvania boys are amongst them, and I have met a few.

I heard yesterday from Syen Chyun, letters written March 13th. Our friends are comfortable and glad to be there to continue to care for the people and property.

ESTHER L. SHIELDS.

*Extracts from a letter from Esther L. Shields, now in Syen Chyen, Korea.*

Thanksgiving Day, 1903.

This has been a bright day, and our Station has met twice, first at the Roos' for our Thanksgiving service, and then at 4 p. m., we went to Mrs. Kearns' for dinner. I staid up late last night doing some things which are apt to occupy one's first evening at home. Mr. Ross led the service, and he always brings helpful thoughts to us. Mr. Whittenmore staid after meeting to talk over plans for December class-work. I hope to go to two classes, being out of Syen Chyen from Dec. 8-23 or 24th.

I had so many pleasant and interesting happenings on the trip I've just finished, not the least of which were the events occurring during the homeward journey. Christian men were secured as chair coolies. The chair I used was sent by a Christian woman. The first noon stop we made was with one of the members of our study class, who had hurried home the day before and been busy most of the night, I guess, in getting food and room ready in order to receive us. Our night's lodging was at the home of a deacon where his wife and three daughters and several other christians met us, and were so kind and cheerful. A native woman evangelist mentioned in report went of us to within twenty li of Syen Chyun, to announce our coming to some women in "Kat Pah we," who prepared us the nicest kind of a dinner,—a rich home—the hostess the mother of one of our school girls, and a lovely woman. A roomful, yes, more than that, of sight-seers came to look at us and had to listen to some remarks, and we had a little meeting with the few christians before leaving for home. A most urgent invitation was given for our going there to teach.

I cannot imagine what work is more "worth while" than this teaching or studying with the women who are just thirsting for an understanding of the messages God has sent in

his word. Many of the women we meet in the farming districts are toil-worn and unpolished, and we find an ignorance which is pitable, and customs, are extremely repulsive, things unimaginable to those of us who have lived in refined homes. Those who have lived in better homes, where there was more money and less hard work, and gentle breeding, show the sweetness of manner, often, that one expects to find in refined circles the world over.

I met several old ladies on this trip who were just as sweet and lovely as they could be. One wouldn't object to having them for flesh and blood relatives as well as sisters in Christ. But love is given even for the dirty and ignorant, real sincere, earnest interest, and desire to help them to better things. "Attempt great things for God; expect great things from God," was a thought in my mind especially during the last class held in a little church among the mountains. Earnest believers were there, but most of them knew so little and it seemed like trying to begin a good deal to inspire a hope to learn in their hearts. They desire to know more, and that is the first great step, but some of them were not very sanguine about their ability, and the lessons we had did not seem to stick very well.

I found more able to read than I first expected from what I had been told, and the younger women are able to commit to memory well, so we did the best we could while with them, and left a list of selections to be memorized, with promises of a book when the work was done. The three good, enthusiastic women who were with me were untiring in their efforts. I am confident that an inspiration for larger things was given. The call for books in this Northern province is greater than the supply. Certain books cannot be printed in large enough editions to fill all orders, especially those which may come in

later, after the value of the book has been tested. The printing is done in Seoul or Japan; the carriage is in part slow and costly.

In winter, pony loads of books coming over-land from Seoul are almost worth their weight in gold, to use a popular expression. For North Pyeng An Province, Syen Chyun has been the supply station, and calls are made again and again for books which are not in stock. One experience was the sending of a load of books for Kank kei, the most northern point visited, and they were so eagerly demanded along the way that none were left for the original destination. It is desired to put into the book room furnishings which will make it more useful and attractive and convert it into a reading room, where these also who are not christians will come to read and converse, and thus become interested in the religion. If this can be done the kindness will be appreciated by both Koreans and Missionaries, and one cannot doubt the usefulness of such a room, with a good man in charge, as an evangelizing agent.

I often think of my friends at home although I cannot write to them separately. I send my kind regards to all of them. Remember me especially to those in Lewisburg, Milton, Kelly Township and Buffalo X Roads.

ESTHER L. SHIELDS,  
Syen Chyun, Korea.

# MISS SHIELDS WRITES

## An Interesting Report of the Work Done at Korea.

### MANY BUSY DAYS AT THE HOSPITAL

#### Learning to Speak the Language of the People. Many Converts to the Cause of Christianity.

"Language study, hospital work, and Evangelistic work as she is able," was the program appointed for me at the last annual meeting. I went to the hospital Nov. 2d, that date being decided by the sickness of one of the school girls, a case of scarlet fever sent to the hospital for treatment. After moving from Iu-sung-poo-chai, and arranging goods in one of the hospital buildings, using Mrs. Avison's guest room for the bedroom, the duties of looking after the hospital clothing, helping prepare for operations, and giving the boys some lessons, taking charge of the nursing of women in patients, and assisting with the dispensary cases, were begun. I used my first year's teacher, Cha-su-pang, until the middle of April, when a certain E-su-pang took his place. Both teachers have tried to do their duty. The time spent with the women in the ward in the Bible study, song and prayer service, was of much pleasure to me. The women could not get much of value from me, but there was always a Christian woman with us, and I'm sure God's blessing was in it for us all. We often had little meetings with the women who came to the dispensary, the Hospital helper or other Christian women helping, and leaflets were

regularly distributed, too. We did wish that none might go away without some thought which would lead to further inquiry and knowledge of the way of salvation. We often had to explain that the mere reading of, or possessing the tract was useless, but that believing sincerely the truths that were taught there was of much importance. Two women came one Sunday to ask about Christianity. They understood that they could find out about it at Chajungwon, and that Sunday was the proper day to do it. One of them came to church once or twice afterwards, but I know nothing of her now. I met with the women of the Hong-Mun-Suk-Kol church in their Thursday meeting for some months, first at Kon-Dong-Kol, later at the hospital. The latter place of meeting was preferable, for the dispensary patients coming on Thursday, and the hospital convalescents could meet with us. An average attendance, when noted, was 17, ranging from 7 to 30. Since Miss Strong has gone, some who are most eager for instruction, long very much for a teacher. They always prayed that God would enable me to learn the language quickly, that I might be able to teach them. It was some comfort to all of us that I could help them sing, and be with them. The average attendance of women at church between November and May was 44. For a time a delegation of two or three was sent to the hospital on Sunday afternoon to have a service with the patients. I attended the church services about half the year. My calls outside of the hospital would not reach two dozen. We were called to a Chinese home, where I went several times without Dr. Field. Among the most interesting patients and people with whom we came in contact during the

year were the following: A woman, who, while in a fit of anger with another woman, had cut her own throat. The wound was made several days before she came to the hospital for medicine, and she would not stay to be treated, only begged for medicine. Some powdered boracic acid was given her, as the only thing she might safely use herself, but without any expectation on our part that it could help her. Some days later she came in to stay with us until she got well, and she did recover. She listened attentively to gospel teaching, and seemed grateful for her life. We have not seen her since she left the hospital. An old lady, dirty, emaciated and miserable, came, and after the initial bath seemed to be homesick, and frightened too, we supposed, that she refused to stay for medical treatment. Little "No-good i," one of the school girls, was with us several months. For awhile she grew weaker, but finally began to get better. Some months later was a red-cheeked, happy little girl, and is now in an orphanage. She was so sweet and patient while in the hospital, that she was a general favorite, and an earnest little Christian, too.

January 10th, a mother and baby came, and the help given at this time secured the friendliness of the head of this house. He had been very unfavorable to Christianity; for although he allowed his son to go to a Christian school, he persecuted him for believing in Christ. One day while the man was in the ward to see his wife. Dr. Avison's Korean teacher, Mok-Su-pang, called from outside, "See here, it is by God's grace that your wife and baby are living, and you ought to believe in Him." The man inside answered, "Mit-gessim naita." ("I

will believe.") He has been an almost regular attendant at church since.

On January 28th a young wife, only nineteen years of age, came to the dispensary. She had taken lye some weeks before, in order to end her life, and wanted only medicine to take home with her; was not willing to stay for surgical treatment. She came back Feb. 6, for the doctor to do whatever seemed best, and developed pneumonia. Against all our advice, she went home while in the midst of the attack, with temperature above 104 Fahr. A bright, healthy looking person called to see us April 15th, and to our amazement, we saw the same woman before us. She was eager to stay with us and be taught, saying that if she became a Christian at home, her husband would not provide for her.

One interesting old woman came in with a fracture just above the wrist. The chin had been used, and the bone had to be set next day while she was under the influence of chloroform.

The small son of a country "yang-ban" (gentleman) had a disease of some of his joints, following small-pox. Dr. Avison excised an elbow joint, and in due time came reports of a satisfactory recovery of the use of the arm. The wife of a chair coolie was very ill in the ward for a number of weeks. Dr. Field and Dr. Harris did an operation, and she got well promptly. She was a woman to whom I was especially attracted. She worked in a Korean kitchen both before and after her illness, and seemed to be a very grateful patient. A boy whose hand and eyes were injured by the explosion of a cartridge about which he had been curious, seemed very happy over his partial recovery, though he lost some of his fingers. I saw him one Sun-

day in September, standing at the open church window, behind the organ, with his face beaming. The case upon which Gastrostomy was performed last year came back to call, on June 7th. She looked well, and the glass stopper from a Worcestershire sauce bottle was doing good service by corking the external orifice in her stomach, between meals. She was happy to see Dr. Field, said it was like "seeing her mother," for although Dr. Avison did the operation, it was to Dr. Field that she had first appealed for her life. Several women came from the country to have one cured who was deaf. One of the others turned her back and stopped her ears that she might not hear the gospel teaching. She said they came only that the deaf person might be cured, and did not want anything else. The next morning she did not object so vehemently when the devotional exercises were held, but the ease of deafness as noneless, so they had to go back without that for which they had come. Four other country women waited one day after dispensary to inquire about Christianity, and invited us to their home to teach them. We did not get out to visit them when we had planned, and have not since heard of them. One of our Christian workers who has been much opposed by all her family brought a younger member of her household to our Thursday meeting one day some months ago. Afterwards this woman attended the church meetings regularly, often bringing her three small boys with her. One Thursday, as the women were about to leave the place, one asked the recent comer if her husband knew that she was at the meeting. With spirit she answered, "Of course he does. do you suppose I would be there if he didn't know? This is one home in which

the steadfast Christian living and faith and prayer have overcome the opposition, and we pray that God may honor his name by bringing every member of this family into his fold.

Dr. Avison's going home made many changes in the plans for work, and the building of the Jacobson Memorial Home has been of much interest to me, but Dr. Field has done nearly all the work in superintending. I went down to the cottage at Han Kang July 7, came back Sept. 7. I studied less than I had hoped, but felt much rested and refreshed by the change. I hope that more time and energy may be given to the nurse's hospital duties than was done in the past. It takes a while to learn the best ways of using only part of one's time in such work as before occupied practically all of one's best self. I think the principal aims should be, to be the doctor's faithful and willing assistant, and help others to be such; to care for patients and wards as they should be; and to learn to adapt our best methods of nursing to Korean needs. I hope to learn to order my day's program so that each duty may have its place, and to consider my field of work one in which seeds have been sown which must be cultivated with care and patience, and in which more must be planted and tended. If I can enjoy the "beauty of growth" as I should, instead of sighing because perfection cannot be obtained at once, I believe that encouragement and happiness in this work will be among the results.

Seoul, Feb. 9, 1937.

Personal Report. E. L. Shields.

Perhaps more and more I realize that as we meet those who come to us we need to quietly listen to what each one would like to tell us, to consider their words and manner, and not to make any of our decisions for them "snap-shot"; except possibly in emergency cases, ~~and wait to hear what he has to say to one~~

My attention has again been called to a book I've had for quite a long time. It is a series of sermons by John Watson (Dan MacLaren) given as the Lyman Beecher Lectures on Preaching at Yale University, 1896, and is entitled "The Cure of Souls". Parts of the book are very suggestive to those of us who try to bring help to bodies which are weary and tired and hurt, and recall again to my mind how often a listener is needed for the mental and physical and spiritual sorrows of the patients

who come to the doctors or nurses or other hospital helpers, some one to listen sympathetically to the individual person who comes for aid.

I wish to quote several paragraphs, which, it seems to me, are as good for our guiding as they may be for ministers; — "No one can exaggerate the opportunity given to a preacher when on the morning of the first day of the week, he ascends the pulpit and faces the congregation who are gathered in the name of Jesus, and wait to hear what he has to say to them concerning the things which are unseen and eternal. Each man carries his <sup>own</sup> burdens of unbelief, sorrow, temptation, care, into the house of God, and the preacher has to hear them all; for, indeed, the work of the pulpit in our day is not so much to teach or define as to stimulate and encourage. That minister who receives a body of people more or less cast down, and wearied in the great battle of the soul, and sends them forth full of good cheer and enthusiasm, has done his work

and deserved well of his people. He has shown himself a true shepherd and he has not done this work without knowing both the will of God and the life of man, without draining a wide watershed of experience — from high hills where the soul has been alone with God, and from deep valleys where the soul has tasted the agonies of life — into the streams that shall be the motive power of many lives on the plains beneath.

So may we be enabled to enter into the lives and hearts of our patients, that we may see from their points of view. — their sorrows, their hopes, and find together with them the love, and sympathy and healing of the Great Physician.

A workman came into the Free Dispensary about two weeks ago, respirations 40, and needing prompt care. Dr. Kwack, one of our very sympathetic young medical men, diagnosed the case asthma, we found a 4th-class bed, thanks to a gift from Miss Helen de Armond which Dr. Ludlow shared with me,



and the man was over the worst of his attack in about 8 days, so was discharged in order that his bed might be used for a more needy patient. But when he came up to our office to express his thanks, he still was weak and looked so pale. We gave him a small wool muffler and wristlets which had been sent from Australia, and one yen to get him food and shelter until the next day, when the doctor would see him and give him medicine to use for four days. The patient's home was 50 li beyond Chulwon, so we gave him two yen for a 3rd-class ticket for that place (Y. 1. 57) and there was a balance of 41 sen; he would rest at an inn for one night while he slowly mended his way from Chulwon to his final destination. Some Gospels were sent with him, and an addressed post-card, so we hope to hear from him after he arrives home.

Another man in the Medical Department, ~~4th~~ class, was very sick. A 4th-class bed was found for him. He is getting on well and looks so happy.

yesterday morning a man came to find out if he could bring his very sick wife. The Registrar and I went to Dr. Avison to ask if the Christmas fund could care for this patient. Consent was given, and the husband brought his wife, carrying her up the outside stairs to the women's 4th-class Department, where Miss Lawrence and the Korean nurses received her as an emergency case.

May we all be enabled to offer such service to "these little ones" that it might be acceptable even by the Lord Himself, could He in person be here to receive it.

Respectfully submitted,  
Esther Shields.

the paper bag. It seemed to me that I had come very near "offending one of His little ones", and that I deserved to suffer for it.

Mrs. Found sent me a Christmas check of five yen for use in the work here. Two yen paid for putting a needy woman into a fourth-class bed for two days - after which time she was transferred to the free department.

The balance of the gift, was kept for the nucleus of the price for a brace for a sixteen-year-old boy from the Salvation Army Boys' Home; Dr. M. U. Koh had the manufacturer come to put a plaster cast on the patient, and afterwards make the brace, which was brought and put on the boy some days ago. It should support the bent back and protruding breast bone, and help the boy to carry his burden more easily. He came to the Home especially because he wished to learn a trade, and not to stay almost helpless in his own poor home. I saw the patient today, and think the support of the brace is going to be beneficial.

A beggar boy with frozen feet was admitted to 4th-class on January 20th. Both feet were black and gangrenous. One was amputated on Feb. 6th - and the other foot will have to be taken off later. As yet we have no free bed for him. From this patient's history sheet I read this note, dated Jan. 31st; - "A fortnight ago, it was a severe cold night. He laid in a dust-bin for the sleep (the pencilled sketch of the dust-bin with the boy lying in it was there beside the record) next morning he felt the severe pain of both foot by the frozen."

Dr. D. B. Avison made himself chargeable for ten days for a dreadfully miserable young man with nephritis, who was admitted 4th-class several days ago.

Report to Station Meeting,

Seoul, Korea. Feb. 10, 1936.

E. L. Shields.

### Opportunities for Social Service at Severance.

Does that mean "meeting the need" of somebody who comes something definite - mental, spiritual, or material? And to give such help as though we were offering to the "Giver of all" the service by serving "one of the least of these?" I think it does, though we often forget that our opportunities really mean that!

One morning a mother with a seriously sick baby ~~came~~ from Sin Chon for free service, but that clinic was not open then, so she needed to be sent to the day clinic for that one time, where our Paediatric's doctor prescribed.

A boy - really grown up, whom I've known for some years, was treated for a sore throat, and got well. He is probably sub-normal, or at least is so considered, and does not observe the rules of the dispensary very well. I've asked him to go to the Free Clinic only, and not to roam through the other departments, except he comes for treatment by special permission. Not long ago he was sent out, and even I told him not to come again. A few days ago he came to my office, wishing to see me, and I immediately conducted him down stairs and out of the front door of <sup>the</sup> dispensary. He finally told me that he came to tell me his throat was well, and he had brought me a gift. I shook my head in refusal, telling him that he needed to do as he was told. His face flushed and his eyes filled with tears. I was rebuked, and held out my hand for the gift, saying "all right"! and he went away. A roll and a little round ball of a dough-nut were in

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Jan. 26, 1939.

At S. G. Church.

Response of F.L.S. to Dr. K. S. Oh's Address.

We have been together through joys and sorrows, failures and successes. We realize that "no man liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself", and that we really all belong to the great human family.

Although I came to Seoul in 1897, my work at the Hospital at Kurikai did not begin steadily until 1898, and for 3-1/2 years I was on duty there - about 13 years after medical work had been opened up by Western physicians - and there were earlier nurses than I. But it has been my privilege to watch the assembling of this modern Hospital and Medical College and the Nurses' School from very small beginnings, and I have the greatest respect and affectionate admiration for the pioneer students who worked through much discouragement and many difficult times when the equipment was very meager, and much patience and loyalty were needed to be exhibited by both pupils and teachers.

Through the years advance has been made, because many worked together to bring this institution to its present state of helpfulness and efficiency.

My outstanding feeling to-day emphasizes the joys of friendship:- the treasures of memory bring to us friends of the past - parents and teachers, home-folks whom we knew before coming to Korea, and new friends who welcomed us here and during all the years since our arrival.

The pleasures which we receive daily from our friends of the present: how often someone looks up in kindly greeting in response to a call, saying: "What can I do for you to-day?"

Thinking of the future, we know that separation by land and sea cannot break the ties of our friendship; our interest and prayers for each other will continue through all the days to come, for our mutual welfare, and that we each may carry out God's plan for us.

For our beloved Institution and all its departments, for the individuals workers and teachers and directors, for nurses and Doctors and pupils and students of the Severance Union Medical College we ask God's blessing and special guidance. For our patients, may we think of their needs - physical, mental and spiritual, - and give to them such service as we could give the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, for we know He accepts such service as unto Himself. As Christ sent out His disciples to heal the sick, and cleanse the lepers, so we pray that we may give what has been given to us, heartily, as unto the Lord.

As for faithful friends in Seoul and all Korea I am most grateful, and do not know how adequately to express my thanks to you. I wish for you the best blessings life can give.

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E. L. Shields

For life, and health, and opportunity, I am grateful. We miss younger friends from our midst, & again my <sup>own</sup> family circle has been broken - by the death of my youngest brother.

For friends who have visited us from afar, from our ~~close~~ neighbors and co-workers, from helpers who have realized some of our hospital needs, we have been able to give aid to not a few who have needed aid; ~~and~~ we again realize how necessary is cooperation in every line, and that to even one piece of successful work there are many contributors.

We are glad to have the faithful Bible woman who is so tactful & helpful in social ways, as she is also <sup>is</sup> in direct personal evangelism. It is my privilege to be a part of this committee - and we know how important is "individual work for individuals." Our new chaplain and his wife are most inspiring and helpful. We are glad for our nursing staff & the nurses' school, and <sup>as</sup> year <sup>follows</sup> year it is almost easy to forget some of the tense experiences which used to be a part of our pioneer days. When I think of many of our earlier young nurses, so well fitted, & consecrated to

the service for which they came, — who were called away by sickness or death, whose time here was so comparatively short, I feel like asking, "who am I, that these 'longer' years should be given to me?" But I am grateful, to the Mission Board & to the home friends who sent me to Korea; to the Lord who has permitted me life and strength and desire to carry on; And to all who have given any service to the sick and sorrowful and suffering who have come to us for relief — we pray that God's love and grace may follow them ~~all~~ also.

May we be so guided that what ever more time is given us, we may give consecrated service, and glorify our Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther ~~Luana~~ Shields,

S. M. M. C.  
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